

REMARKS

With the entry of the present amendments, Claims 1, 3-40, 42-53, 55-57, 59-62, 64 and 65 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 16, 22, 39, 47, 53, 57 and 62 have been amended. Claims 2, 41, 54, 58, 63, 66 and 67 have been cancelled.

As discussed below, the present amendments place all of the pending claims in the application in condition for allowance.

I. Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 27-38 are allowable in their present form.

II. Objection to Claims

In the Office Action, Claims 22, 47, 53, 54 and 57-63 were objected to as depending on rejected base claims. However, the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The present amendments to Claims 1, 16, 22, 39, 47, 53, 57 and 62 rewrite the objected-to claims in independent form, in compliance with the recommendations in the Final Office Action. The amendment to Claim 2 merely changes the dependency of that claim such that it depends from an allowable claim.

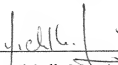
Applicants believe that the claim amendments and cancellations overcome all of the outstanding rejections in the Final Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is thought that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 24, 2007

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